

Electric Rates to Increase an Average of 2% in 2012

“We didn’t increase rates in ’10 or in ’11, but we’ll need an increase of 2% in ’12,” according to the co-op’s manager, Bruce Giffin. “It’s principally because we have to continually rebuild sections of the electric lines. Parts of the system are beyond, or at the end of, their useful lives, and, if we don’t replace them, they’ll cause poor service.

Visit us at e-co-op.com for more info.

“It’s simply the fact that if we don’t replace them, come the next major storm, those weakest parts of the system will fail and will need to be rebuilt to restore service. And a lot of the labor during storms is overtime, so it’s better to bid for the work and use contractors on a planned basis. Otherwise, we’ll end up with bad service, longer outages and potentially higher costs. Clearly, that’s not what anybody wants.”

The terms and conditions and the rates for the various classes will be posted at e-co-op.com. Your rate class is shown on your monthly statement.



Illinois Rural Electric Cooperative is working closely with the counties in our service territory on a tourism website.

If you would like to submit pictures or information to be considered for the website, e-mail visitwestcentralil@gmail.com.



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14th Annual Lineman's Safety Rodeo

Linemen from Illinois Rural Electric Cooperative competed alongside seven other co-ops at the 14th annual Safety Rodeo in Springfield. The rodeo is held on the Hot Line Training Grounds at Lincoln Land Community College. The teams compete in events using skills that focus on agility, speed, and accuracy.

Linemen Cole Hurrelbrink, Mike King, and Joe Killday competed for the co-op. Events included hurt man rescue, conductor repair, H-structure obstacle course, and an egg climb. Lincoln Land college students were on hand to observe the linemen.

Visit our Facebook page for more photos from the event, facebook.com/illinoisruralelectric.



Cole Hurrelbrink prepares for the egg climb.

Top: Mike King competing in the hurt man rescue event.

Eight 2012 IEC Memorial Scholarships Available

Illinois Rural Electric Cooperative has announced that the Illinois electric cooperatives will again in 2012 award seven academic scholarships to high school seniors through a memorial scholarship fund designed to financially assist deserving students in the “electric cooperative family.” In addition, a new eighth scholarship – to assist with costs in attending an electric lineworker school – will also be offered.

The eight scholarships of \$1,250.00 each will be awarded in 2012 through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

Four scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric cooperative member receiving service from the cooperative. A fifth scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, will be awarded to a student who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative employee. The sixth and seventh scholarships are reserved for students enrolling full-time at a two-year Illinois community college who are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members, employees or directors.

A new eighth annual scholarship, the “LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker’s Scholarship,” was awarded for the first time in 2011. This \$1,250 scholarship will help pay for costs to attend the lineworker’s school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield, IL. LaVern McEntire served as a lineman for McDonough Power Electric Cooperative from 1949 until 1991. He and his wife, Nola, endowed the new scholarship to financially assist deserving individuals in becoming trained lineworker’s.

Sons and daughters of co-op members; relatives of co-op employees or directors; and individuals who have served or are serving in the armed forces or National Guard are all eligible for the lineworker’s scholarship.

“We hope to assist electric cooperative youth while honoring past rural electric leaders with these scholarships,” says Robert Brown, president of the board of Illinois Rural Electric Cooperative and the other Illinois electric cooperatives are always seeking ways to make a difference in our communities. One of the best ways we can do that is by helping our youth through programs like this one. In addition, we are very pleased to offer the new electric lineworker’s scholarship. It will benefit not only electric cooperative youth but also those fine men and women who have served their country through their military service and may now be wanting to become a trained lineworker.”

For more information regarding the scholarships, contact Dorothy Cox, 217-243-8705. All necessary paperwork has also been sent to area high school guidance Counselors.



Tune Up Your Furnace and Save \$60 a Year!

Save money this fall and winter by having your furnace in proper working order. A tune-up before the temperatures begin to dip is the best way to avoid problems in the wintertime. Electric, gas, and propane furnaces can go approximately three to five years between service calls and longer, if you change the filters regularly. Oil furnaces need to be serviced once a year, because of becoming dirty more often and needing annual adjustment.

Changing filters regularly is one of the key maintenance tasks to keep any type of furnace running efficiently. Proper care of furnace filters may save you up to \$5 a month. Make sure that you know where your furnace's filter is located and what size it is. Inspect it periodically, and replace it when it is dirty. How frequently you need to change the filter depends on the amount of dirt in the house and around the furnace and also how much time the furnace runs.

Duct air leakage is one of the largest energy-wasters in your heating system. Heating contractors can check your ducts for air leakage, and seal the biggest leaks. Contractors start by sealing the larger joints near the furnace, and then work out towards the branch ducts as access allows. It is important to note, duct tape is not a good choice for sealing ducts because its adhesive usually fails after a short time. Duct mastic, available in cans or buckets, is an effective and permanent material for sealing duct air leaks.



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